

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed August 22, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-19, 21-23, 25-28, 30-37, 39-41, 43-46, 48-62, 64-67, 69-83, 85-88, 90-104, 106-109 and 111-117 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains or with which it is mostly nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse, and direct the Examiner's attention to for example FIGS. 3-5 and the explanations associated therewith.

Specifically, FIG. 3 and par. [0017] describe an NVM and a latch. Details of these are shown in FIG. 4, with a discussion of NVMs 48 and 50 of FIG. 4 and their advantages beginning in par. [0020]. According to the discussion beginning in par. [0023], the NVMs may be floating gate transistors as shown in FIGS. 5A – 5F. Par. [0023] further explains that in these floating gate transistors, “[e]lectrons may be added to and removed from the floating gate 54 by various mechanisms including Fowler-Nordhiem (FN) tunneling, impact-ionized hot-electron injection (IHEI), direct (bi-directional) tunneling (if the dielectric layer is thin enough), hot-hole injection, band-to-band tunneling induced hot-electron injection, ultraviolet radiation exposure, or a variety of other means as are well known to those practiced in the art.” These mechanism for adding or removing charge from the floating gate are referred to as “programming” in the last line of par. [0023]. According, the language in the claims is fully supported in the specification and the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Conclusion


In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 10/16/2006


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